

REMARKS

The claims have been restricted into groups I and II, wherein:

Group I includes claims 1-27, drawn to a method; and

Group II includes claims 28-51, drawn to an apparatus.

Applicant hereby provisionally elects Group I, claims 1-27 with traverse.

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

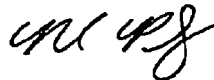
With respect to this restriction requirement, the Examiner asserts that:

In this case, the apparatus as claimed can be used to practice another and materially different process such method in which the plasma is non-uniform or a method in which the plasma density is non-asymmetric.

It is noted that independent method claim 6 and corresponding independent apparatus claim 30 are directed to producing a modified radial variation characteristic of plasma density as compared to a given radial variation characteristic. Inasmuch as either of these claims encompasses a scope which covers non-uniform plasmas and non-asymmetric plasma densities, the rationale in the above recited passage is respectfully submitted to be improper at least as to the restriction between independent claims 6 and 30, and their dependents. Moreover, it is respectfully submitted that the claims of groups I and II contain subject matter which overlaps, particularly with respect to claims 6-27 and 30-51, requiring the Examiner to at least make an overlapping search. Accordingly, such a search should not place an undue burden on the Examiner. For at least this reason, it is respectfully requested that at least claims 30-51 should be rejoined for examination and, more preferably, group II should be rejoined.

Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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USSN 10/803,453

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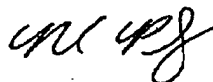
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